

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic message comprising:
a sound file; and,
a predetermined identifier that distinguishes said sound file from other files attached to the message and indicates indicating a course of action to be taken with said sound file.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a sender's voice.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice and at least one word in a sender's voice.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the predetermined identifier is a specific file name associated with said sound file.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the predetermined identifier is an information tag.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6 wherein the information tag is embedded in the e-mail header.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for sending an e-mail comprising:
attaching a sound file to an e-mail; and,
utilizing a predetermined identifier which distinguishes said sound file from other files attached to the e-mail and which indicates indicating a course of action to be taken with said sound file ~~into said e-mail~~.
9. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is performed by a computer at a sending party's end.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is automatic.
11. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is performed by an adjunct to a computer at a sending party's end.
12. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is performed by an e-mail server.
13. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said attaching is performed by a recipient computer.

14. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a sender's voice.

15. (Original) The method of Claim 14 wherein said sound file further contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice.

16. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice.

17. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the predetermined identifier is an information tag.

18. (Original) The method of Claim 17 wherein the information tag is embedded in the e-mail header.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the information tag is embedded by a sender computer.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the information tag is embedded by an adjunct to a computer at a sending party's end.

21. (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the information tag is embedded by an e-mail server.

22. (Original) The method of Claim 18 wherein the information tag is embedded by a recipient computer.

23. (Original) The method of Claim 18 where said attaching is selectively performed by a sending party.

24. (Currently Amended) A method for announcing electronic messages comprising:
receiving an electronic message with an attached sound file;
noting the presence of a predetermined identifier that distinguishes said sound file from other files attached to the message indicating a course of action to be taken with said sound file; and,
playing the attached sound file in response to the noting of the predetermined identifier.

25. (Original) The method of Claim 24 further comprising receiving at least one more electronic message with an attached sound file and playing said at least one more sound file.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a sender's voice.

27. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice.

28. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein said sound file contains at least one word in a computer simulated voice and at least one word in a sender's voice.

29. (Original) The method of Claim 24 wherein noting the presence of a predetermined identifier includes noting the presence of an information tag.

30. (Original) The method of Claim 29 wherein the information tag regarding the sound file is embedded in the e-mail header.

31. (Original) The method of Claim 30 wherein the information tag is embedded by a sender computer.

32. (Original) The method of Claim 30 wherein the information tag is embedded by an adjunct to a computer at a sending party's end.

33. (Original) The method of Claim 30 wherein the information tag is embedded by an e-mail server.

34. (Original) The method of Claim 30 wherein the information tag is embedded by a recipient computer.

35. (Original) The method of Claim 24 where said playing is selective.

36. (Original) The method of Claim 24 where said playing is performed at a recipient computer.

37. (Original) The method of Claim 24 where said playing is performed at a recipient customer premise equipment.

38. (Original) The method of Claim 24 where said playing is performed at a recipient voice mail.

39. (Original) The method of Claim 24 further comprising converting the content of the electronic message to a voice message.

40. (Original) The method of Claim 39 where said converting is performed at an e-mail server.

41. (Original) The method of Claim 39 where said converting is performed at a recipient computer.

42. (Original) The method of Claim 39 where said converting is performed at an adjunct to a computer at the receiving party's end.

43. (Original) The method of Claim 39 where said converting is performed at a voice messaging system.

44. (Original) The method of Claim 39 wherein said converting is performed using a sound file as a voice sample.

45. (Original) The method of Claim 39 further comprising transferring said voice message to a voice-mail box.